

WALTER E. JOHNSON

Coins of the World

2737 E. EUCLID • DES MOINES, IOWA 50317

January 5, 1971

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Street
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Sir:

I hope your holidays were most enjoyable. Mine were and I have been quite busy since our telephone conversation.

The only information that could be gathered with reference to the Canadian 4-1936 DOT cents came from Bill Egleston, Marshalltown, Iowa. It appears that Robert (Bob) Gregor was in the coin and stamp business for a few years in the early 1960's in the Kansas City, Missouri, area. After the peak in the middle 1960's, he got out of the coin and stamp business and got into the Lapidary and Oriental Art Import market.

In 1966 or 1967, Mr. Gregor was moving all his coins and other material to Iowa and near Marshalltown his pickup went off the highway and rolled over and totalled it out. His material was thrown over the scene. Mr. Gregor suffered serious head and body injuries and was hospitalized for sometime. Mr. Egleston and much help were only able to recover about 50% of the coins which were in the pickup.

Mr. Gregor recovered from the accident, except for his memory. In the past three years the U. S. coins have been sold and the Canadian and other minors have been stored.

After this recovery, Mr. Gregor went to Taiwan for Egleston as a buyer for Oriental Art and Gemstones; where he met his present wife and he has been back to the United States a few times.

Last spring (1970) I met Mr. Gregor for the first time at a Rock Show where he had a few U. S. gold pieces with him, which I purchased. After some conversation, he told me of this bulk lot of Canadian coins. I expressed a desire to purchase and it was then that I learned of his partner, Bill Egleston, and that the coins were stored in Marshalltown. That was the first and last time I saw Bob Gregor. I met Mr. Egleston at my 1st Collectors' Extravaganza, November 1969, when he had a booth with antiques and Oriental Art.

During my May show I talked with Mr. Egleston with reference to the Canadian coins and we got together last June or July. He brought this material to my home and some of it was in 2 x 2's, tubes and a cigar box of bulk. We finally settled for \$1,100. A few days later I counted it and it came to \$268 and some odd cents face value.

While working the coins up in 2 x 2's, grading and pricing them, I found in the Canadian cents the 4-1936 DOT Coins and in the past six months have been trying to find someone with the knowledge to authenticate them and keep this find confidential.

I called Mr. Egleston on December 26, 1970 to ascertain where these coins came from and he stated that Bob bought and sold so much that if he were alive today and had a good memory he wouldn't know. Incidentally, Mr. Gregor passed away with a heart attack a couple months ago.

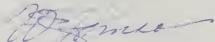
As I understand (and am beginning to figure) Mr. Egleston is a speculator and silent (money) partner in several business ventures.

Mr. Newman, at this time, I would like to request that a man of your knowledge and expertise examine these 4 coins, about which I have written, and tell me if they are good or counterfit. I know the odds are six hundred seventy-eight thousand, eight hundred twenty-three to one that they are good. As I have said, these were sold not as DOT cents and only have 16 cents invested in them.

If they are authentic I am not interested in selling or having the knowledge made public, at this time.

Please let me know if you would examine the coins.

Very truly yours,



Walter Johnson
FG:WEJ

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 14, 1971

Mr. Walter E. Johnson
2737 E. Euclid
Des Moines, Iowa 50317

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Your letter of January 5, 1971 is at hand with respect to the four 1936 DOT cents.

Although we have given our opinion on many coins submitted, we have never had the problem of modern Canadian coinage. We will, however, study the coins if you care to send them to us.

There is, apparently, no purpose in discussing the reputation of Bob Gregor, as the coins will have to speak for themselves.

Our suggestion to you is that you have the four coins photographed so that they are readily identifiable. This should be worth your while in view of the fact that you have such tremendous confidence in them. There would then be positive identification of each one and it even might help in their study if nice enlargements were made.

We will certainly try to be helpful in studying the coins.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb



AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

JOHN JAY PITTMAN

President

4 Acton Street

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14615

May 5, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
P.O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Dear Eric:

I am returning to you in this registered package the four 1936 Canada cents, the property of Walter E. Johnson, 2737 E. Euclid, Des Moines, Iowa, 50317. You handed these pieces to me in Washington, D.C. (at our ANACS Committee meeting) for examination, since Mr. Johnson felt that they might be 1936 Canada dot cents.

I have examined the pieces very carefully and checked them against genuine dot cents. When examined with a stereo-microscope, at magnification up to 60X, it is my opinion that the four 1936 Canada cents which you handed to me are not genuine 1936 Canada dot cents.

Thank you for making these pieces available for my examination.

With best regards,
Sincerely,

John Jay Pittman
John Jay Pittman

JJ/gc
enc.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

October 4, 1972

Mr. Walter Johnson
2737 E. Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50317

Dear Walter:

You asked me to write an opinion as to the 1936 Canadian cents. I want to examine another with a strong dot to be sure of the method of making. I took back one with the weakest dot. Would you send me another.

It was nice to meet you and fun talking to you.

Sincerely,

EPN
atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY



Walt Johnson

2737 East Euclid Ave. Des Moines, Iowa 50317
(515) 262-6916

10-5-72

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St Louis 5 Missouri
Dear Friend Eric.

I'm sending you the Canadian
cents requested. Take your pick. The others are
for you for your Collection. Perhaps you have
these pieces. They are what we found thru
the years.

It was my pleasure to have
met you & enjoyed our visit. & your talk
Sunday found most interesting. I shall
look forward to our next meeting.

Perhaps you find time
the weekend of Nov 11+12. Wish you
could come to Des Moines & Enjoy your
self at the Extravaganza. I'm quite sure
you will find something of interest. If you
do decide would be happy to make Motel
reservations for you. One motel is just
one block away.

Your friend
Walt Johnson

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63130

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

October 25, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil
Saint Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric,

This letter is a report on the four 1936 Canadian cents which Jim Maxby and I have examined visually both with naked eye and with 10x and 20x hand lenses. Subsequently I looked at the coins under a stereoscopic microscope at magnifications of 10x, 19.5x and 45x. Jim and I independently made notes of our observations and then discussed them. We agree that none of the four coins is a genuine "dot" cent. The principal objective reason for this conclusion is the irregularity of shape of the dots- none of them is round and two are very poorly defined.

Our observations on the individual pieces follow. (The numbers are those written on the outside of the envelopes containing the coins).

#1. Dot quite flattened and of irregular shape. There is a slight depression around the dot from 4 to 12 o'clock and a slight lip around the depression from 5 to 8 o'clock. There are several gouges in the field near the dot and many incuse small circular depressions in the field. The appearance suggests that the dot was produced by inserting a wire into a drilled hole and then pounding down the end.

#2. Depression in field all around dot, which is not round. It appears that this dot was produced by tooling the field.

#3. The dot is far from round. There is an unnatural greyish surface color over the entire coin suggesting chemical attack or heat treatment. There is a shallow depression (a "moat") in the field around the dot, which is in low relief. Either tooling or insertion of a wire followed by hammering and artificial toning or other surface treatment may be the source of the dot.

#4. The dot is virtually invisible under even 10x magnification unless side lighting is used. The dot, in very low relief, has a second dot outlined in even lower relief at 5 o'clock. Several small circular depressions are seen in the field.

Thus all four coins appear tampered with, while we feel confident in believing that none is a genuine "dot" cent, we are much less certain about the manner in which the dots were produced. The remarks about the origin of the dots on coins 1 to 3 must be considered speculative on our part.

A final reason for questioning the genuineness of these pieces, or at least the dots (surely the coins are genuine), is the fact that four of the five known specimens regarded as genuine are believed to be specimen strikings, and the fifth, a circulation strike, was found in the pyx box. That is, no "dot" cent regarded as genuine has been found in circulation. This does not prove that none were released for circulation, but it does at least raise the possibility.

Mr. Eric P. Newman, October 25, 1972, page two.

There is an unfortunate difficulty in authenticating any dot cents- there are no accurate photographs available. The purported photographs in Charlton's and Haxby's catalogs (of both "dot" cent and ten-cent piece) have been altered at the behest of Mr. John Jay Pittman, the possessor of several pieces regarded as genuine. The positions of the dots on these photographs have been altered, presumably to make the work of the counterfeiter more difficult. A cynic would point out that it is virtually impossible to authenticate a "dot" cent without access to genuine specimens or accurate photographs. If the mintage of 678,823 given by Haxby is correct, however, then several dies must have been used, and there should be more than one "correct" dot position for the genuine coins.

I hope that this information is of use to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Gaspar

cc: J.A. Haxby

Walt Johnson's
Collectors Extravaganza

2737 E. Euclid Ave. Des Moines, Iowa 50317
(515) 262-6916

10/27/71

Dear Mr. Newman:

Enclosed are the 4-1936 001
cents I wrote you about last Dec. (1970)
Your letter of Jan 14, 1971, ref
Mr. Bob Gregor, I lost interest
in this project

Since I invested in the
photographs just as well send
them for your opinion

You have my permission to
send them anywhere examinations
as we talked about by phone

Thank you for your time

Very Truly Yours
Walt Johnson

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

November 22, 1972

Mr. Walt Johnson
2737 E. Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50317

Dear Walt:

Thank you for the nice alterations and forgeries. They are now resting together in my fake box. That is my coin jail.

You asked for further research and a written report on the four Canadian dot cents. I showed them to the best in the Canadian field, Jim Haxby. His pal, Peter Gaspar, is a chemistry professor and he wrote the enclosed report. I agree with them. I refer you also to Numismatic News of October 31, 1972 which has an article on Canada's Coin Fakes by Bob Willey and he says the drill and plug system was common. He indicates there are five original dot cents and four original dot dimes, all accounted for.

I am enclosing three of the four dot cents and one of the sets of pictures. You have the other pictures already.

A good way to fake the pieces is to cover with wax all except where the dot goes and then plate on copper. I think this was used on No. 4.

I hope you have a fine holiday and that our paths cross soon again.

Thank you for a fascinating problem.

Cordially,

EEN
atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

CERTIFIED MAIL